

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 /083 W

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R 131401Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 673

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OPORTO 0198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PINT, PINS, EGEN, PO, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN REFUGEES

REF: LISBON 5207 AND 5258

1. THE IMPACT OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN THE NORTH IS EXPECTED SHORTLY TO REACH CRISIS PROPORTIONS. PROBLEMS OF HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, FEEDING AND CLOTHING FOR THE REFUGEES HAVE DOMINATED RECENT CONVERSATIONS DURING A SERIES OF COURTESY CALLS ON OFFICIALS IN OPORTO AND SIX OTHER NORTHERN DISTRICT CAPITALS.

UPWARDS OF 30,000 HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED OF WHICH 15,000 ARE OFFICIALLY REGISTERED IN OPORTO. LOCAL RESOURCES ARE EXHAUSTED WITH THE MAIN BULK YET TO COME. 3,500 ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THIS WEEK ACCORDING TO LOCAL RED CROSS DIRECTOR. STORIES OF MISERY AND PRIVATION ARE CIRCULATING: WOMEN SLEEPING ON STREETS, CHILDREN LACKING MEDICAL CARE, FAMILIES LIVING UNDER BEACH UMBRELLAS. COOLER AUTUMN WEATHER AND FALL RAINS WILL BRING REAL SUFFERING TO THOSE WHO ONLY ESCAPED WITH TROPICAL CLOTHING.

2. THE PLIGHT OF THE REFUGEES HERE AND IN ANGOLA IS THE SINGLE MOST EXPLOITABLE AND EXPLOSIVE POLITICAL ISSUE AT PRESENT IN THE NORTH.

IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT WITH ALL THEIR POSTURING AND SLOGANIZING,  
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COMMUNISTS HERE ARE OF ALL STRIPES HAVE IGNORED MENTION OF THE

SUBJECT, AND FOR GOOD REASON. THE REFUGEES ARE ANTI-COMMUNIST (AND ANTI-MPLA), AND IN A VERY VIOLENT MOOD. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, THE PRESENCE OF ARMED REFUGEES FORCED THE PCP TO CANCEL THEIR AUGUST 20 MEETING IN THE OPORTO CRYSTAL PALACE FOR FEAR OF THEIR LIVES AND THAT OF CUNHAL.

3. THE REFUGEES THEMSELVES HAVE ALREADY ORGANIZED PLENARY MEETINGS IN OPORTO AND ELECTED A "COMMITTEE FOR OVERSEAS REFUGEES IN THE NORTH" (COMISSAO DOS DESALOJADOS ULTRAMARINOS DO NORTE). THE COMMITTEE IS PREPARED TO MOBILIZE ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO ALLEVIATE THE PLIGHT OF THE ARRIVING REFUGEES. IN THAT REGARD, REFUGEE AND RED CROSS SOURCES ARE EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL THAT ANY AID PROVIDED VIA LISBON WILL EVER REACH THE NORTH WHERE 90 PERCENT OF THE REFUGEES ARE COMING. HOWEVER, THE REFUGEE COMMITTEE SEES AS ITS FIRST

PRIORITY THE SAFE EVACUATION TO PORTUGAL OF REMAINING REFUGEES IN ANGOLA WHO NUMBER 500,000 ACCORDING TO COMMITTEE FIGURES. MOST REFUGEES STILL HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS IN ANGOLA AND THUS FAR THEY HAVE BEEN INHIBITED FROM TAKING A MORE MILITANT (ANTI-COMMUNIST) POLITICAL ROLE FOR FEAR OF CUTTING OFF FURTHER EVACUATION

EFFORTS BY THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WHOM THEY ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF HOLDING HOSTAGE.

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## Message Attributes

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